

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158636
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DRAFTED BY NEA:HHSAUDERS:HE

APPROVED BY NEA;HHSAUDERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158636

NODIS

CHEROKEE - EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EG, US, XF

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

1. THE QUESTION HAS ARISEN WHETHER THE VICE PRESIDENT SHOULD STOP IN EGYPT FOR A FEW HOURS JULY 3 ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE U.S. FROM ISRAEL. QUESTION AROSE WHEN SAID MAREI IN MEETING TODAY WITH VICE PRESIDENT VOICED EGYPTIAN DISTRESS THAT VICE PRESIDENT IS GOING ONLY TO ISRAEL.

2. ARGUMENT FOR SUCH A STOP AS SEEN HERE IS TO MEET EGYPTIAN CONCERNS, ALTHOUGH THOUGHT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN DISCUSSIONS HERE THAT A STOP OF A FEW HOURS AFTER THREE DAYS IN ISRAEL MAY REFLECT SUCH IMBALANCE AS TO NEUTRALIZE OTHER ADVANTAGES. DISADVANTAGES INCLUDE DILUTION OF THE GAINS IN ISRAEL FROM THE VISIT THERE AND THE PROBLEM WHICH COULD ARISE IF SADAT MAKES AN UNEXPECTED STATEMENT IN A JOINT APPEARANCE BEFORE THE

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PRESS.

3. VICE PRESIDENT VERY MUCH WANTS YOUR VIEWS ON HOW SERIOUSLY WE SHOULD TAKE THIS MOST RECENT EXPRESSION OF EGYPTIAN CONCERNS. HE HAS ASKED THAT YOU RESPOND IN TWO CHANNELS: FIRST, HE WOULD APPRECIATE A TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE; SECOND, HE WOULD APPRECIATE

THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH YOU ON THE SECURE PHONE.
HIS OFFICE WILL BOOK A SECURE CALL TO YOU FOR 1100
HOURS WASHINGTON TIME THURSDAY. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF
YOU COULD SEND YOUR TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSE SO AS TO BE
AVAILABLE HERE EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR HIM TO READ
BEFORE HE TALKS WITH YOU.

4. AS YOU KNOW, OUR THINKING HERE RIGHT ALONG HAS BEEN
THAT THIS SHOULD BE A ONE-STOP TRIP, AND VICE PRESIDENT
SAID HE HAS NO STRONG FEELINGS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
QUESTION ARISES SIMPLY BECAUSE OF SAID MAREI MEETING.
VICE PRESIDENT'S QUESTION IS LITERALLY: HOW SERIOUSLY
SHOULD WE TAKE MAREI'S PITCH? ARE EGYPTIANS REALLY
GOING TO BE HURT OR IS THIS CONCERN REALLY LAID TO REST?
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Message Attributes

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